

## National Republican.

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S. P. HANSCOM, EDITOR.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, JULY 25, 1866.

## TEST OATHS IN TIME OF PEACE.

Civil war in a country is an affair which creates high national necessities. Some writers have gone so far as to say that the necessities of nations in times of war furnish the laws for their prosecution. Among the inventions which resulted from the supposed or real necessities of our recent war was what is commonly called the test oath, by which, in addition to the usual obligation to support the Constitution and perform official duties, public officers were required to swear that they had neither directly nor indirectly participated in or in any manner aided in the rebellion. This, for aught we have to say to the contrary, was a judicious provision at the time it was enacted, and subsequently to the end of the war.

But we have doubts of its propriety now that the necessity which called for it is passed. And our doubts are greatly strengthened by evidence that it is being used in some instances to the prejudice of the public service. Second, third, and even fourth-rate men in the Southern States are frequently entrusted with important public duties merely because first-rate men in the same localities, although now equally loyal to the government, cannot take this oath. The anti-reconstructionists roll it up as a sweet morsel of vengeance under their tongues upon the late reconstructionists, merely as a piece of their number recently said in a public speech, to let them know that "there is a punishment after death." It suits precisely that class of bigots who we find in most of our churches now-a-days, who are as busily employed in expelling members from the church as the clergyman is in getting them in—Christians of the Deaconess Society, who devoutly prayed for the salvation of "me and my wife, my son John and his wife—my four and no more." But it smacks too much of hide-bound prescription of our fellow-men, merely because they have, at a former period, been guilty of wrong-doing, to suit the spirit of the age in time of peace.

If the purity or safety of the Government requires the application of such a test, why does not the purity or safety of Christian churches, where it is supposed a more elevated moral standard is necessary, require it? Suppose the enrolled members of all the churches in Washington, and all future candidates for admission thereto, were required to swear, as a condition of enrolment as members of the cross, that they have never at any time in their lives taken usury, gambled, used profane language, committed fornication, adultery, or fraud, bore false witness against their neighbor, coveted another's ox, or ass, or his wife, and committed none of the other improprieties, vices, or misdemeanors forbidden by their rules and regulations, would it strengthen or weaken the cause of Christian religion? Are any of these proscriptions patriots willing to have a test oath of this sort applied to them as a condition precedent to their entrance into Heaven? If these questions are, as they must be, answered in the negative, we then ask, in all candor, whether the Christian religion, which ought to furnish us the proper guide in such cases, is not predicated upon the idea that men are sinning continually, and have no chance of being saved whatever, except through Divine mercy and forgiveness? And is not such forgiveness conditioned upon our forgiveness of others? Do we need any better than the Christian system for the preservation of our Republic? It really seems to us that a very little reflection "on this subject" must convince the most jealous and liberal of our radical friends that it is politic to relax the rigor of the rules made for the condition of war as soon as possible. Badly as any of our Southern brethren have acted, they are nevertheless members of our great political family, and must sooner or later be awarded their seats at the family table. What public good can be attained by excluding them from it any longer?

## UNSCRUPULOUSNESS OF THE EX-RIGHTS.

We desire to call especial attention to the following cards from one of the honest opponents of the constitutional amendments proposed by Congress and recently thrust before the Tennessee Legislature. The writer of these protests against tyranny in favor of the voice of the people, served during the war, and with gallantry and distinction in the Union army, and only left his place in the army to take a seat in his State Legislature in obedience to the strong call of his own neighbors after the rebellion had been crushed. This is one of the men whom "that broad burlesque upon all possible Governors" denominated in his infamous dispatch to "J. W. FORTNEY," editor of "my two newspapers," one of "ANDREW JOHNSON'S TOLLY," but this worthy and eminently Christian gentleman neglected to add the equally important fact that Captain WILLIAMS was also, for a long time of service, a tool of the now martyred ABRAHAM LINCOLN, for the righteous purpose of subduing rebellion, restoring his own and other Southern States to the jurisdiction and Government of the Union, and to secure the rights of loyal men in the South, who, having borne "the heat and burden of the day," are now placed by their radical friends in Congress and out of it upon the same footing, perhaps not so high, as those who now, at the eleventh hour, propose to come into the vineyard and reap the rewards by over-zealous and traitorous subversion.

The radical party in Congress were assured by their new-found allies in Tennessee that they would make the Legislature of that State a model of the golden rule prepared by them for the popular palates, and these Tennessee traitors have strained every nerve to fulfill their part of the contract—have called upon the military to aid them in their nefarious scheme, and, failing in this, have invaded the sanctity of a private chamber in the middle of the night, with white and black ruffians, and hurried honorably discharged Union soldiers to their prisons. And why, forsooth? Merely because they sought to defeat the plans of those who had, "for thirty pieces of silver," bargained to deliver their State to the tender mercies of their enemies "bound hand and foot." Let all read the following statement of Captain WILLIAMS, and reflect that the American people are called upon to sanction the action of the Governor of Tennessee, the congressional tool, in seeking to fasten a set of odious and proscription measures upon the loyal people of Tennessee:

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A CARD FROM THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, JULY 17, 1866.  
To the House of Representatives:  
I have the honor to inform you that the Senate of this State, on the 17th inst., has passed a bill, which is now before you, and which is entitled to the consideration of the House of Representatives.

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Message from the President.  
The following message was received by the House yesterday afternoon from THE PRESIDENT:  
To the House of Representatives:  
The following joint resolution restoring Tennessee to her relation to the Union was last evening presented for my approval.

Whereas, in the year 1861, the government of the State of Tennessee was seized upon and taken possession of by persons in hostility to the United States, and the inhabitants of said State, in pursuance of an act of Congress, were declared to be in a state of insurrection against the United States; and whereas said State government can only be restored to its former political relations in the Union by the consent of the law-making power of the United States; and whereas the people of said State did, on the 23d day of February, 1865, by a large popular vote, adopt and ratify a constitution of government, whereby slavery was abolished, and all ordinances and laws of secession, and debts contracted under the same, were declared void; and whereas said State government has been organized under said constitution, which has ratified the amendment to the Constitution of the United States abolishing slavery, also the amendment proposed by the Tennessee Legislature, and which is now before the Senate and House of Representatives, and which is entitled to the consideration of the House of Representatives; Therefore,

Resolved, That the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States do hereby restore to the former proper practical relations to the Union, and is again entitled to be represented by Senators and Representatives in Congress.

The preamble simply consists of statements, some of which are assumed, while the resolution is merely a declaration of opinion. It comprises no legislation, nor does it confer any power which is binding upon the respective Houses, the Executive, or the States. It does not admit to their seats in Congress the Senators and Representatives from the State of Tennessee, but it merely declares that they are entitled to their seats in Congress, and that they are entitled to their seats in Congress.

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## CONGRESSIONAL REPORTS.

## XXXIXTH CONGRESS—FIRST SESSION.

## TUESDAY, JULY 24.

## SENATE.

Mr. Sherman, from the Committee on Finance, reported the bill for the issue of certain bonds in denominations greater than \$1,000, which was passed.

Mr. Howard, from the Committee on the Pacific Railroad, reported the bill for the issue of certain bonds in denominations greater than \$1,000, which was passed.

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the question being on the amendment of Mr. Clark, appropriating \$1,500,000 for the construction of levees on the Mississippi river.

Mr. Ramsey submitted the report of the committee on the discharging of vessels, and amendments of the joint resolution for the relief of certain officers, which was adopted.

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starting on the fifth section, appropriating \$32,000 to the Madison Street for a land office, and that it had no proper place in a deficiency bill.

Mr. Wright, of N. Y., moved an additional section, declaring the Capitol police entitled to the increased compensation provided for employees of the House.

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